AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented): An earthquake prediction method comprising:

observing magnetic field vectors of magnetic fields within an observation area;

estimating telluric current induction field vectors and telluric currents based on vector differences between the observed magnetic field vectors and a geomagnetic vector;

collating and comparing a change over time of the estimated telluric currents and a state of the estimated telluric currents within the observation area, with past patterns of change over time of telluric currents and a state of the telluric currents; and

estimating a seismofocal zone, time of occurrence, and seismic intensity of a seismic event based on the comparison.

2. (previously presented): The earthquake prediction method according to claim 1, further comprising:

eliminating a magnetic field noise component at observation points from observed magnetic fields;

finding an amount of divergence between a direction of a magnetic fields from which said magnetic field noise component has been eliminated and a direction of true north; and

estimating said telluric current induction field vectors based on vector differences

between observed magnetic field vectors from which said magnetic field noise component has

been eliminated and a geomagnetic vector that has been corrected to true north.

3. (previously presented): The earthquake prediction method according to claim 2,

wherein estimating telluric current induction field vectors and telluric currents comprises:

plotting said estimated telluric current induction field vectors on a map; and

estimating said telluric currents by joining points on the map at which geomagnetic

abnormalities are recognized and applying Ampere's right-handed screw rule.

4. (previously presented): The earthquake prediction method according to claim 1,

wherein estimating telluric current induction field vectors and telluric currents comprises:

plotting said estimated telluric current induction fields on a map; and

estimating a seismofocal zone at an area in which said estimated telluric currents are

concentrated.

5. (previously presented): The earthquake prediction method according to claim 4,

further comprising:

gathering past data of telluric current induction field intensities of the estimated

seismofocal zone;

generating a telluric current induction field intensity change pattern that indicates change

over time;   ·

collating and comparing the telluric current induction field density change pattern with

past telluric current induction field intensity change patterns that have been stored; and

estimating said time of occurrence and seismic intensity of a seismic event.

6. through 12. (cancelled).

13. (previously presented): An earthquake prediction method according to claim 2,

wherein:

said magnetic field noise component is a change in magnetic field that is observed at

fixed time intervals at a fixed observation point; and

eliminating said magnetic field noise component comprises analyzing characteristics of a

pattern of the change in magnetic fields that is observed at fixed time intervals as a fixed

observation point and extracting the magnetic field noise component from observed magnetic

fields.

14. (previously presented): An earthquake prediction method according to claim 2,

wherein estimating said telluric currents comprises using Ampere's right-handed screw rule

based on said estimated telluric current induction field vectors of a plurality of points.

15. (previously presented): An earthquake prediction method according to claim 2,

wherein estimating said telluric currents comprises using Ampere's right-handed screw rule

based on said estimated telluric current induction field vectors of a plurality of points that form a

loop.